



Fact Guide for Capitol Reef National Park (for public use)

Explanation

This guide has been developed to provide a source for standardized information, reviewed by park staff, to promote consistency in figures, distances, facts, usage, language, and resource information for Capitol Reef National Park.

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Updated 2015

CAPITOL REEF ROCK LAYERS

This table gives guidance for the official names and ages of Capitol Reef's exposed rock layers. Dates for periods are from the 2014 International Chronostratigraphic Chart from the International Commission on Stratigraphy and should be interpreted as a typical age near the middle of the formation (Fm) or rock layer.

Rock layer	Approximate Age (Ma: Millions of Years Ago)	Period	Era
Mesaverde Fm	80 – 75 Ma 85 Ma	Cretaceous (Late)	Mesozoic
Mancos Shale	96 – 72 Ma 90 Ma	Cretaceous (Late)	
Dakota Sandstone	100 – 94 Ma 95 Ma	Cretaceous (Late)	
Cedar Mountain Fm (discontinuous)	120 – 100 Ma 117 Ma	Cretaceous (Early)	
Morrison Fm	155 – 148 Ma 150 Ma	Jurassic (Late)	
Brushy Basin Member	150 – 148 Ma 149 Ma		
Salt Wash Member	154 – 150 Ma 152 Ma		
Tidwell Member			
Summerville Fm	159 – 157 Ma 158 Ma	Jurassic (Late) San Rafael Group	
Curtis Fm	161 – 159 Ma 161 Ma	Jurassic (Late) San Rafael Group	

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Entrada Sandstone	161 – 166 Ma 163 Ma	Jurassic (Middle) San Rafael Group	
Carmel Fm	170 - 166 Ma 168 Ma	Jurassic (Middle) San Rafael Group	
Page Sandstone (discontinuous)	170 Ma	Jurassic (Middle) San Rafael Group	
Navajo Sandstone	200 – 175 Ma 180 Ma	Jurassic (Early) Glen Canyon Group	
Kayenta Fm	200 – 195 Ma 193 Ma	Jurassic (Early) Glen Canyon Group	
Wingate Sandstone	205 - 200 Ma 200 Ma	Triassic/Jurassic (Early) Glen Canyon Group	
Chinle Fm	235 - 218 Ma 225 Ma	Triassic (Late)	
Shinarump Member (discontinuous)	218 Ma		Paleozoic
Moenkopi Fm	247- 242 Ma 245 Ma	Triassic (Early)	
Kaibab Limestone	278 – 269 Ma 270 Ma	Permian (Early)	
White Rim Sandstone	282 - 278 Ma 280 Ma	Permian (Early)	

 = unconformity

Periods:

Jurassic-Cretaceous boundary: 145.5 mya

Triassic-Jurassic boundary: 199.6 mya

Permian-Triassic boundary: 251 mya

Eras:

Paleozoic: 542 to 251 mya; meaning ‘ancient life’ (Greek)

Mesozoic: 251 to 65.5 mya; meaning ‘middle life’ (Greek); also called the age of reptiles.

Cenozoic: 65.5 mya – present; meaning ‘new life’ (Greek)

Extrusions of lava associated with igneous activity west of the Waterpocket Fold produced 20 Ma basalt flows that presently cap Boulder and Thousand Lakes Mountains. Debris slides, floods, alluvial processes, and glacial intervals transported boulders, cobbles, and gravel from approximately 150,000 to 5,000 years ago.

The **Laramide Orogeny** was a period of [mountain building](#) in western [North America](#), which started in the [Late Cretaceous](#), 75 Ma, and ended about 35 Ma. The exact duration and ages of beginning and end of the orogeny are in dispute. The Laramide Orogeny occurred in a series of pulses, with quiescent phases intervening. The phenomenon is named for the [Laramie Mountains](#) of eastern [Wyoming](#). A secondary uplift occurred no more than 30 mya, possibly related to isostasy (rebound of the crust as materials erode).

Other expressions of time:

Ga (billion years ago)

Ma (million years ago); mya is also used

ka (thousand years ago)

Capitol Reef’s Fossil Record

Capitol Reef’s fossil record spans 200 million years of Earth’s past, encompassing the entire Mesozoic Era (251 to 65.5 Ma), marked by rapid diversification of life, highlighted by the rise of the dinosaurs.

Triassic Trackways and swim traces of two crocodile-like species, *Chirotherium* and *Rotodactylus*, are found as sandstone casts in mudstone layers of the Moenkopi Fm. These trackways indicate that these species lived in a coastal mudflat environment.

Plant Megafossils are found within the Chinle Fm. Large plant fossils – preserved as impressions, petrifications, and casts – contain representatives from most major groups of vascular plants including ferns, horsetails, and conifers. The types of plant species found in the Chinle suggest that 200 Ma, southern Utah was a land of rivers and swamps with a wet, tropical climate.

Giant Stromatolites are found within the desert-formed Navajo Sandstone. Stromatolites are layered structures formed by the accumulation of cyanobacteria as a growing mat of bacterial filaments. They are the oldest fossils on Earth (dating back over three billion years), were the dominant life form for more than two billion years, and are thought to be primarily responsible for the oxygenation of the atmosphere. 15-ft-high stromatolites here suggests that the desert of the Navajo Formation had large bodies of standing water, indicating interdunal playa deposits and challenging former assumptions that it was entirely dry.

Oyster Shells reflect a time when a shallow seaway inundated this area and created brackish marine conditions. These shells were concentrated in the coastal plain depositional system preserved as the Dakota Sandstone.

Glossary of Useful Terms for Understanding Capitol Reef Geology

Basalt - A dark volcanic extrusive igneous rock composed chiefly of calcium plagioclase and pyroxene.

Crystal - The multi-sided form of a mineral, bounded by planar growth surfaces, that is the outward expression of the ordered arrangement of atoms within it.

Diagenesis – All of the changes which happen to sediment after deposition, excluding weathering and metamorphism. Diagenesis includes compaction, cementation, leaching and replacement.

Eolian – A term used in reference to the wind. Eolian materials or landforms deposited by or created by the wind.

Erosion – The removal and transportation of earth materials by gravity, wind, water and ice.

Formation – A formation is a rock unit that is distinctive enough in appearance that a geologic mapper can tell it apart from the surrounding rock layers. It must also be thick enough and extensive enough to plot on a map. Formations can be lumped together into larger rock units called groups, and divided into smaller units called members.

Gem – A natural mineral or organic substance that is prized for its substantial beauty, rarity, and durability.

Igneous rock – Rock formed from the cooling and crystallization of lava or magma, above or below the earth's surface.

Laccolith – An intrusive igneous rock that has domed the overlying rock.

Lava – Molten rock that flows at the Earth's surface, extrusive igneous.

Lithification – The processes through which sediment is converted into sedimentary rock, including compaction and cementation.

Magma – Molten rock beneath the Earth's surface.

Mineral – An inorganic solid that has a characteristic chemical composition and specific crystal structure, e.g., quartz, feldspar, gypsum.

Ore – An economically viable mineral deposit, most commonly metallic minerals.

Rock – A solid Earth material composed of minerals, rock fragments, cement, or glass, e.g., sandstone, limestone, basalt.

Strata – Visually distinct layers of sedimentary rock.

Uplift – Upward movement of the Earth's crust.

Volcanic – Any of various processes and phenomena associated with the surficial discharge of molten rock, pyroclastic fragments, or hot water and steam, including volcanoes, geysers, and fumaroles.

Weathering – The physical disintegration and chemical decomposition of rocks at the Earth's surface.

CAPITOL REEF ECOLOGY *List of life zones, key species, information on air quality designation, night sky levels, river information including cfs flows and quality, snowfall, rainfall, flashfloods, ESA (Endangered Species Act) and orchard information.*

Data from [Irma.nps.gov](http://irma.nps.gov) and Northern Colorado Plateau Network.

(239) Bird Species

(71) Mammal Species

(15) Reptiles

(5) Amphibians

(13) Fish, Native #tbd, Non-native #tbd

(909) Vascular Plants 29 locally endemic, 124 introduced species

Total species: 1252

(7) Primary Life Zones

Riparian & Wetland community

Mixed shrub community

Grassland community

Badlands community

Pinyon-Juniper woodland community

Mixed Conifer woodland community

(33) Ecological Systems

Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland

Southern Rocky Mountain Mesic Montane Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland

Southern Rocky Mountain Dry - Mesic Montane Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland

Southern Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland

Inter-Mountain Basins Subalpine Limber - Bristlecone Pine Woodland

Inter-Mountain Basins Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany Woodland and Shrubland

Colorado Plateau Pinyon-Juniper Shrubland

Colorado Plateau Pinyon-Juniper Woodland

Colorado Plateau Mixed Bedrock Canyon and Tableland

Rocky Mountain Gambel Oak - Mixed Montane Shrubland

Rocky Mountain Lower Montane - Foothill Shrubland

Great Basin Semi-desert Chaparral

Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe

Inter-Mountain Basins Big Sagebrush Shrubland

Colorado Plateau Mixed Low Sagebrush Shrubland

Colorado Plateau Blackbrush - Mormon-tea Shrubland

Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-desert Shrub-Steppe

Southern Colorado Plateau Sand Shrubland

Inter-Mountain Basins Active and Stabilized Dune

Inter-Mountain Basins Greasewood Flat

Inter-Mountain Basins Mixed Salt Desert Scrub

Inter-Mountain Basins Shale Badland

Inter-Mountain Basins Wash

Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-desert Grassland

Rocky Mountain Subalpine - Montane Riparian Woodland

Rocky Mountain Lower Montane - Foothill Riparian Woodland and Shrubland

North American Warm Desert Riparian Woodland and Shrubland

North American Arid West Emergent Marsh

Colorado Plateau Hanging Garden

Natural Features of Special Interest

Unvegetated Geologic Exposures

Developed Areas

Open Water

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(9) Threatened (T), Endangered (E), and Candidate (C) Species

Plants:

Barneby reed-mustard	<i>Schoenocrambe barnebyi</i>	E
Jones cycladenia	<i>Cycladenia humilis v. jonesii</i>	T
Last Chance townsendia	<i>Townsendia aprica</i>	T
Ute ladies- tresses	<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	T
Winkler cactus	<i>Pediocactus winkleri</i>	T
Wright fishhook cactus	<i>Sclerocactus wrightiae</i>	E

Animals:

Mexican Spotted Owl	<i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	T
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	E
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	C

Utah Division of Wildlife has a sensitive species list. Utah State Natural Heritage Program has a list of sensitive plant species.

WEATHER

** Monthly temperatures vary 5°F - 10°F on either side of the average high or low

Data collected by the National Weather Service from 1985 - 2014								
	**Temperature (°F)				Precipitation (In.)		Snowfall (In.)	
	Av. High	Av. Low	Record High	Record Low	Average	Max	Average	Max
January	40.6	20.2	64.0	-2.0	0.49	0.92	4.75	14.0
February	46.6	26.3	71.0	-7.0	0.55	1.50	2.17	6.50
March	57.7	33.5	80.0	11.0	0.52	0.80	2.30	7.0

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April	65.7	39.8	88.0	22.0	0.57	1.30	0.43	2.0
May	75.2	48.5	97.0	29.0	0.61	0.85	0.02	0.40
June	86.6	58.1	103.0	35.0	0.34	0.68	0.0	0.0
July	91.4	65.1	104.0	51.0	1.01	1.39	0.0	0.0
August	87.6	62.5	101.0	50.0	1.21	1.50	0.0	0.0
September	79.6	54.3	96.0	35.0	0.95	1.86	0.0	0.0
October	66.5	43.5	88.0	23.0	0.87	1.78	0.10	0.80
November	51.0	30.8	74.0	11.0	0.53	0.90	1.48	6.0
December	40.6	21.3	67.0	-7.0	0.34	0.9	2.39	8.0

Average Warmest Month: July

Average Coldest Month: January

Average Wettest Month: August

Hottest Day on Record: 104°F on July 5, 1985

Coldest Day on Record: -9°F on January 7, 1971

CAPITOL REEF TRADITIONALLY ASSOCIATED TRIBES

The following list provides information on Capitol Reef's Associated Tribes, as well as further information about this terminology.

Thirty-two tribes have demonstrated ongoing association with Capitol Reef through current and/or historic traditional uses, occupation of the area predating EuroAmerican settlement, and/or descent from archeologically identified cultural groups. Tribes are federally recognized entities that went through a special acknowledgement process with the federal government.

- Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians of Utah
- Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians
- Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians
- Moapa Band of Paiute Indians
- San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe of Arizona
- Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
- Pueblo of Acoma
- Pueblo of Cochiti

Hopi Tribe
Navajo Nation
Pueblo of Isleta
Pueblo of Jemez
Kewa Pueblo
Pueblo of Laguna
Pueblo of Nambe
Ohkay Owingeh
Pueblo of Picuris
Pueblo of Pojoaque
Pueblo of Sandia
Pueblo of San Ildefonso
Pueblo of Santa Ana
Pueblo of Santa Clara
Pueblo of Taos
Pueblo of Tesuque
Pueblo of Zia
Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Reservation
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation
Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation
Ute Mountain Tribe of the Ute Mountain Reservation
Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation
White Mesa Ute

Traditionally Associated Peoples are defined as social/cultural entities such as tribes, communities, and kinship units, as well as park neighbors, traditional residents, and former residents who remain attached to a park area despite having relocated, are “traditionally associated” with a particular park when (1) the entity regards park resources as essential to its development and continued identity as a culturally distinct people; (2) the association has endured for at least two generations (40 years); and (3) the association began prior to establishment of the park.

The term **Traditionally Associated Peoples** potentially applies to other groups with enduring associations but includes tribes and so, when we are specifically referring to tribes, we say Tribes instead of Peoples.

The term **Culturally Affiliated** is a specific term defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. In that context it has a specific legal use that relates to modern tribal peoples’ cultural relationship to people who were here before.

CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK'S ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES DISCLOSURE POLICY (*Office Order CARE 25*) outlines disclosure of sites, features and artifacts, documentation of unsolicited objects, and stewardship practices concerning archeological resources and their stewardship in the park.

Class I Sites are well-documented, publicized, widely known, easily accessible, closely monitored and do not pose a significant safety risk to visitors. Example: Fruita Highway Panels (along boardwalk).

Class II Sites are somewhat well-known, can endure some visitation but cannot endure heavy traffic without incurring damage. These site locations may be disclosed privately only when visitors request information by site name, and only after site etiquette rules have been reviewed.

Class III Sites are not to be disclosed to anyone, including friends, family and staff members. Resources protected by the Archeological Resource Protection Act are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Persistent requests should be referred to the park Cultural Resources Program Manager, Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection or Chief of Resource Management and Science.

CAPITOL REEF CULTURAL CHRONOLOGY

Gradual transitions existed between the successions of cultural groups. Some changes were based on environmental causes. Note the current preferred use of B.C.E./C.E (before common era/common era)

Paleo-Indian: 10,000-7000 B.C.E.

Hunter-gatherers. Small nomadic groups, hunting large, now extinct, game (Giant Bison, Mammoth) in addition to easier game, such as caribou. Diagnostic artifacts include Clovis and Folsom spear points. Cool, moist environment. Diagnostic artifacts found in the area immediately adjacent to Capitol Reef.

Archaic: 7000-500 B.C.E.

Hunter-gatherers. Small groups, hunting game common now (big horn sheep, deer, elk, antelope). Nomadic with annual regional migrations. Diagnostic artifacts include atlatls (spear- or dart-throwing sticks) and distinctive stone points. They lived in alcoves, with late Archaic making pit houses. The climate was warmer and moister initially, then trending towards a dryer climate overall. Archaic petroglyphs and pictographs, point scatters, and Archaic-age campsites are found in Capitol Reef.

Formative (farmers): 300-1300 C.E.

Fremont Culture: 300-1300 C.E. evidence showing their presence

600-1200 C.E. time of prosperity

There is a shift in how many describe past peoples. It is more accurate to say “The people called the Fremont Culture by archeologists lived in area for 600 years.”

The Fremont culture relied on corn, beans and squash as a food source while continuing hunting/gathering. They developed pottery and utilized the bow and arrow introduced from the north. The Fremont River Canyon (namesake) in Capitol Reef is the type locale (where their culture was identified and defined by archeologists) for Fremont Culture. Dwellings consisted of pit houses, alcoves and summer camps. Anthropomorphic petroglyphs and pictographs have characteristically trapezoidal-shaped bodies, and there are numerous geometric bighorn sheep figures and linear symbols. Diagnostic artifacts include granaries, grinding stones, distinctive projectile points and tools, one-rod-and-bundle basketry, moccasins, black-on-grayware coil pots (some with applique), ceramics, and unfired clay figurines.

Ancestral Puebloan: 600-1300 C.E.

Largely sedentary farmers who coexisted here with Fremont Culture. Ancestral Puebloans predominantly (but not exclusively) occupied the southern portion of the park, with Capitol Reef at the northern periphery of their range. Primarily found south of the Colorado River with Mesa Verde National Park as a prime example of Ancestral Puebloan culture. Six Ancestral Puebloan developmental stages from Late Basketmaker II through Pueblo IV demonstrate a progression of dwellings from pit houses to above-ground masonry structures for aggregate communities, and changes in basketry and pottery styles and predominance.

Late Prehistoric: 1250-1540 C.E.

Ancestral Puebloan and Fremont Culture migrated, possibly due to resource overuse, drought, disease, cold, and/or dispersal into area cultural groups.

Evidence left by ancestors of today’s Ute and Paiute (Numic-speaking) people appears in the archaeological record during this time (and perhaps earlier). They largely followed a hunter-gatherer lifeway and lived in wicki-ups.

Protohistoric: 1540-1800s C.E.

Ute, Paiute, Hopi, and Zuni claim cultural association via Fremont and Ancestral Puebloan ancestors. A summary of their cultures can be found in the park’s General Management Plan.

Sources for Capitol Reef Cultural Chronology dating of prehistoric Native American Indian cultures:

Janetski, Joel C.; Lee Kreutzer; and Richard K. Talbot, *Life on the Edge: Dating Fremont Culture in Capitol Reef National Park* (Museum of Peoples and Cultures, Brigham Young University, 2005), 373.

Simms, Steven R. and Francois Gohier. *Traces of the Fremont: Society and Rock Art in Ancient Utah* (University of Utah Press, 2010), 18-20.

Other:

“Land of the Sleeping Rainbow” per Cindy Micheli may be lore that has found a place through time. It has been passed down that one Navajo day-laborer called it “Land of the Sleeping Rainbow” and now the phrase is used by many. Lurt Lee created “Sleeping Rainbow Ranch” at Pleasant Creek.

Historic Period of the Fruita Rural Historic District: 1880-1941 C.E.

Chronology of dates and events for Capitol Reef, Fruita, Capitol Reef National Monument and Capitol Reef National Park from 1884 to 1991.

Source:

Frye, Bradford J. *From Barrier to Crossroads: An Administrative History of Capitol Reef National Park, Utah Volumes 1 & 2*. Cultural Resources Selections, National Park Service, 1998.

1854 John C. Fremont’s 5th and last cross-country expedition passed through Upper Cathedral Valley.

1866 Captain James Andrus and adjutant Franklin B. Woolley led a group of mounted militia charged with exploring territory west of Capitol Reef. The party observed the Capitol Reef area from Bowns Point on Boulder Mountain and then returned to the west.

1869 First Grand Canyon expedition led by John Wesley Powell; Dirty Devil River was named.

1872 Almon Harris Thompson, Powell’s brother-in-law, led the first expedition to explore and map Capitol Reef and the Henry Mountains. They discovered and named the Escalante River, and also observed Capitol Reef from Boulder Mountain. The group descended the mountain and apparently passed through the Capitol Reef via Pleasant Creek, eventually crossing the Henry Mountains and making it to the mouth of the Dirty Devil, where Powell had left a boat. Half the group rowed to Lees Ferry, the other half returned through the Waterpocket Fold. Thompson climbed the high point of the Henry Mountains, and named it after his wife, Ellen.

- 1873 A treaty was signed by the Ute and Paiute tribes at Council Grove, UT, which opened the area east of Richfield to settlement.
- 1875 Albert Thurber brought part of the Richfield cooperative (church managed) cattle herd to the Rabbit Valley. Subsequently, individual ranchers added their own cows to the herd, then towns were established: Thurber (now Bicknell) in 1875; Fremont in 1876; Loa and Teasdale in 1878; East Loa (now Lyman) in 1879; Grover in 1880; and Torrey in 1884.
- 1875-76 GK Gilbert investigated the geology of the Henry Mountains, reporting in 1877. He traveled from Salt Lake, noting a scattering of ranches in the Rabbit Valley, and correctly predicting that towns would soon be established. On his way to the Henrys he described and sketched Capitol Reef country. During the second year, he traveled through Halls Creek Narrows. Clarence Dutton soon followed and produced the epic 'Geology of the High Plateaus of Utah' in 1880.
- 1879-80 The Hole-in-the-Rock party traveled during the winter from Escalante to Bluff through very difficult country to settle extreme southeast Utah.
- 1881 Charles Hall was chosen to find a better route to Bluff and established the path through Lower Muley Twist and Halls Creek to the Colorado River. Hall operated a ferry there for just three years.
- 1881 or 1882 Ephraim K. Hanks settled along Pleasant Creek.
- 1882 The federal Edmunds Act outlawed polygamy.
- 1882 Behunin cabin built.
- 1883 Elijah Cutler Behunin cleared the road through Capitol Gorge.
- 1883 Cass Hite discovered gold on a sandbar in the Colorado River, setting off a mini goldrush that caused the cattle trail on the east side of the park to be improved to a wagon road.
- 1886-87 A brutal winter killed hundreds of thousands of cattle and sheep. The market crashed, and several years of severe drought followed.
- Late 1880s Original homestead claims in Fruita were filed by Nels Johnson, Leo Holt, Elijah Cutler Behunin, and Hyrum Behunin.
- 1890 Jack Sumner discovered gold in the Bromide Basin in the Henrys, starting another mini goldrush. The town of Eagle City arose and was a ghost town by 1900.

- 1896 The Fruita School was built by the community on land donated by Elijah Cutler Behunin or Amasa Pierce. The gable roof was added in 1914 and interior plaster in the 1930s. The building also served as a community center and occasionally for Sunday school and church services. When dances were held, the band was usually inside, and the dancers outside.
- 1890s-1930s Two lime kilns operated in Fruita (one west of the VC along Sulphur Creek – it collapsed in 2013; the other is along the Scenic Drive in the tent area of Loop B of the campground). Lime was used for mortar, plaster, whitewash, and possibly as an insecticide for the orchards. The last production was for mortar for the Caineville school.
- 1900 Elijah Cutler Behunin became the first presiding elder of the Fruita branch of the Torrey Ward.
- 1900-1934 50,000 sheep were shorn each year at the Notom and Sandy ranches.
- 1901 Thomas Pritchett and HJ McClellan filed the Nightingale Claim on the area now known as the Oyler Mine. By 1937 the same area had been filed upon approximately 80 times.
- 1910 There were 19 adults and 42 children living in Fruita.
- 1910s Copper, lead, and iron were mined on Miners Mountain.
- 1920-21 First oil drilling in the area (near Wagon Box Mesa) resulted in a dry hole.
- 1921 A local boosters club was formed by Joe Hickman, principal of the high school, and Ephraim Pectol, Torrey merchant, to promote Wayne Wonderland, a term attributed to Pectol. Later, this group merged with the Richfield Chamber of Commerce, Salina Lions Club, and Wayne Commercial Club to become the Wayne Wonderland Club.
- 1925 Hickman, now a legislator, carried a bill to create the Utah Board of State Park Commissioners, but no funding was allocated. Nonetheless, a rumor circulated that Wayne Wonderland State Park had been created, and a large celebration was held on July 18-19. Governor George Dern attended and spoke on the 19th in general terms extolling the beauty of the area, but he was reluctant to propose funding for state parks. A week later, Joe Hickman drowned in Fish Lake, and momentum for the creation of a park was lost.
- 1931 The first NPS consultation with local boosters occurred when Zion superintendent Thomas Allen Jr. met with interested citizens.

- 1933 The Utah legislature passed a resolution urging fast federal action to create a Wayne Wonderland National Park or Monument.
- 1934 The Taylor Grazing Act asserted the first federal control over grazing.
- 1934 Roger Toll, superintendent at Yellowstone, and designated investigator of proposed NPS sites in the western United States, issued a report recommending the creation of Wayne Wonderland National Monument, with boundaries similar to those adopted in 1937.
- 1934 A report to the Utah State Planning Board suggested a much larger park than Toll proposed.
- 1935 An NPS proposal suggested adding the Fremont River gorge and Fish Creek Cove to the monument.
- 1935 A revised plan for recreation continued to propose a large (360 square mile) park.
- 1935 The first decreed water rights on the lower Fremont River were declared. Seven Fruita residents were allocated 8 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the 56 cfs available. The Fremont very frequently had flows far less than 56 cfs.
- 1935 Preston Patraw, Zion superintendent, made two visits to the area, primarily to sort out boundaries for the new monument. His report included the results of the first aerial inspection of the park, and for the first time, replaced the Wayne Wonderland name with Capitol Reef, so that a national monument would not be named for a specific county. Patraw's report was more detailed than Toll's and formed the basis for Capitol Reef National Monument (CRNM).
- 1936 CRNM status was postponed while the proposed huge Escalante National Monument (ENM) was discussed. The ENM was to cover all the ground from the Green River south to Arizona, and from Moab and Blanding west to Escalante. Opposition reduced the proposal to a strip along the Colorado River which eventually became Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.
- 1937 Franklin Delano Roosevelt created Capitol Reef National Monument under the Antiquities Act, on August 2.
- 1938-42 The Chimney Rock Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp was established. Their work included construction of the ranger station, stream bank stabilization, road construction, and improvements to the Hickman Bridge Trail. During this time the State Road Commission paved the road from Sigurd to Torrey.

- 1940 Lurton (Lurt) and Margaret Knee purchased the Floral Ranch on Pleasant Creek, and converted it to the Sleeping Rainbow Guest Ranch. The park bought pieces of the ranch from 1974-78 and the Knees were granted a life estate on a small part of the property. Lurt Knee died in 1995.
- 1941 Last classes held in the Fruita Schoolhouse. Subsequent students were bused to Bicknell.
- 1943 The phone line from Notom, through Capitol Gorge and Fruita up to Torrey was abandoned; it had been unreliable throughout its existence.
- 1943 The park acquired the Alma Chesnut property, and with it, the first water rights. Charles Kelly was invited to reside in the house, primarily so the water would continue to be used and the rights to it maintained.
- 1944 Charles Kelly was named volunteer custodian of the park.
- 1946 Construction of the Capitol Reef Lodge began on land owned by Doc Inglesby, but owned by two Californians, George Mason and Vincent Rosenberger. It was modeled on Zion Lodge, but the money soon ran out and the structure was modest.
- 1947 Garkane Power Company ran a power line and poles from Torrey to Fruita.
- 1948 The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) bulldozed a rough track up the Burr Trail switchbacks, and in 1953 blasted and improved the road.
- 1948 The first electric line reached Fruita.
- 1949 A master plan for CRNM was developed by Zion superintendent Charles Smith. In the document Smith notes, "The choice building sites are in private ownership within the monument and private enterprise is at present developing a hodge-podge of cabin camps, beer joints and cheap shops on private land."
- 1950 On May 1, CRNM was officially activated, with a budget of \$6,500, which included Charles Kelly's salary as the first ranger. Kelly was 61 at the time.
- 1950 More than two dozen people filed claims on the Oyler Mine, thus effectively preventing any actual mining.
- 1950 Visitation (a road count) was estimated at 8,000.
- 1952 In response to the uranium boom, paving of the road from Green River to Hanksville began.

- 1952 A large piece of the main petroglyph panel fell down, and pieces of it were collected by residents. At the time, the petroglyph panel was located on private land, so it was not afforded protection by the Antiquities Act.
- 1953 Visitation was 16,000.
- 1953 The first interpretive exhibit was installed in the CCC ranger station.
- 1953-59 CRNM was opened to uranium mining under a special use permit granted to the AEC.
- 1954-mid 60s The Rainy Day Mines, four miles south of the Burr Trail switchbacks, produced a considerable amount of uranium ore. By 1986 these claims, the last in CRNP, were declared null and void.
- 1955 The future of Fruita was determined by Superintendent Franke of Zion. Some NPS personnel suggested that Fruita be removed from the monument boundaries, but Franke strongly resisted this idea. He said, "It is difficult for me to accept permanent abandonment and alienation of desirable lands within the area merely for the reason that funds for acquisition would be difficult to obtain. History has taught me that in our national parks and monuments we usually strangle ourselves by too little land with the result that objectives highly important are lost forever...History also teaches that a compromise with ideals and retreat to a line that can be defended before local citizens is a good method for increasing the 'headaches'. If a National park or monument is worthy let's fight for it. If the area is not worth that national status let's recommend its abolishment." Franke's position was eventually confirmed.
- 1956 All uranium prospecting in CRNM ended, as the AEC stopped underwriting prospecting. However, the Yellow Joe and Yellow Canary claims south of the Grand Wash Road were worked from 1955 until the early 1960s. The NPS acquired the claims in 1967 and did some restoration work.
- 1956 The Mission 66 Prospectus outlined the transition of CRNM to a "...fully functioning, increasingly popular unit of the National Park System."
- 1956 Visitation was 67,500.
- 1956-62 The future of the orchards was very uncertain. They survived largely due to happenstance and local circumstance until Mission 66 was implemented.
- 1957 The road from Torrey to Fruita was paved.
- 1958 The first permanent ranger, Grant Clark, was employed. By this time Charles Kelly had been appointed superintendent. The park lands were enlarged by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

1958 The NPS agreed to not charge an entrance fee on Utah Highway 24 whenever the road was built.

1959 Charles Kelly retired.

1960 CRNM became independent of Zion's coordinated supervision on February 1.

1960 The electric line was completed through the Fremont River canyon.

1960 Visitation exceeded 100,000.

1961 The NPS received a declaration of taking (condemnation) for the properties of Max Krueger and Cora Smith in order to build Utah Highway 24. Other properties necessary were purchased. These parcels carried with them 3.84 cfs of water.

Early 1960s As the park acquired water rights through purchase of inholdings, it had to be used in order for the rights to be maintained. Worthen Jackson was given a special use permit for \$100 to operate the orchards and keep whatever profit ensued. He and his son Kent ran them until 1971. The next year Robert Sweet of Taylorsville maintained the orchards. In 1973 the Torrey Ward harvested the cherries; Colleen Shelley the peaches and apricots; and the Wayne County Jeep Posse got the apples and pears. In 1974 the National Guard did the harvesting, but hunting season diverted attention and a lot of apples and pears rotted on the ground. In 1973 Kent Jackson and Richard Jensen were hired as orchard seasonals, and Emmet Clark was the full time manager from 1975 until his retirement in 1985.

1960s Power and phone service were extended to the Sleeping Rainbow Ranch.

1962 Paved Utah Highway 24 was completed through the Fremont River canyon. Rather than build two bridges over the Fremont River to negotiate a natural oxbow, the rocks were blasted and the river rerouted. This action was prior to the 1969 NEPA, National Environmental Policy Act, which requires environmental assessments and reviews to make changes to the land.

1962 The Capitol Gorge road was closed, touching off considerable local controversy.

1962 Phone service became available in Fruita.

1962 Visitation exceeded 200,000.

1963 The water treatment plant and Loop A & B loops in the campground in its present location were finished; C loop finished in 1987. Until this time the only park buildings

were the CCC ranger station, and the Alma Chesnut house where Charles Kelly had lived.

- 1964 Six houses and the apartment building in the housing area were constructed, and the maintenance building completed.
- 1964 Clair Bird obtained a lease on state land $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of the current visitor center and built a gas station. In 1970 he began mining ripple rock there. He also owned the lodge, where his attention to National Park Service concessionaire rules was spotty. The rock quarry set off years of friction with the park until 1978 when the NPS asked the US Senate's Interior and Insular Affairs Committee to issue a declaration of taking for all of Bird's property, including the lodge. Compensation was \$400,000. He was ordered to vacate by June 15, and soon after the gas station and lodge were razed and the quarry reclaimed.
- 1965 The visitor center opened in June, though the building was not completely finished. Exhibits and AV programs were installed in 1967.
- 1966 The Scenic Drive was improved to a gravel surface with culverts.
- 1966 By this time all of the following were gone: Inglesby house and cabins; all buildings on the William and Dicey Chesnut property; and the log cabin, fruit cellar, sheds, and corrals on the Cass Mulford place.
- 1967 The Burr Trail switchbacks were improved again; the Notom-Bullfrog Road was extended to Bullfrog; and Utah State Route 276 was built and paved from Utah Highway 95 to Bullfrog.
- 1969 President Lyndon Johnson added approximately 200,000 acres to CRNM, igniting local opposition, especially from ranchers fearful that their grazing leases would be lost. Within the added acreage there were 39 permittees authorized for 6077 AUMs. (An AUM is an animal unit per month, defined as a cow and calf.)
- 1969 Dewey Gifford sells his house to the National Park Service and moved away. He was the last private resident in the Fruita area.
- 1970 Interstate 70 was completed through the San Rafael Swell (though only two lanes), thereby greatly reducing the amount of truck traffic through the park.
- 1971 PL 92-207 (Public Law) created CRNP, along with Arches National Park. The bill stipulated that grazing leases would be honored until their expiration date, and could then be renewed one time for a period of 10 years.

- 1973-75 The park irrigation system was upgraded with a settling pond, new intake structure, and underground pipe, thereby significantly reducing maintenance requirements.
- 1974 75% of the park was recommended for wilderness status, an amount that was increased to 90% in 1984. These proposals were gathered with those from other parks and presented to Congress in 1978, but were never acted upon. According to NPS policy, however, the areas have been managed as wilderness since.
- 1976 The huge Intermountain Power Project proposal was resurrected. The plan was to build a 3,000 MW coal-fired power plant at Factory Butte. The Clean Air Act, passed the same year, designated all national parks as class 1 airsheds which effectively killed the project. A plant half that size was eventually constructed near Delta, Utah.
- 1977 Land, including the Behunin cabin and the Utah Department of Transportation waterfall, was purchased from Wonderland Stages for \$275,000.
- 1978 The park proposed to cut down about a third of the orchard trees, but a local meeting in Loa expressed strong sentiment to retain them, which was done.
- 1982 PL 97-341 delayed the grazing phase out for 10 additional years.
- 1982 The first General Management Plan for the park was drafted.
- 1982 Viking Exploration proposed building a pipeline down the fold, across Halls Creek and up to the abandoned airfield to transport oil from a well just west of the park. All permit applications were denied.
- 1984 George Davidson began a comprehensive oral history program.
- 1987 NPS buyouts of grazing allotments were allowed by the department solicitor. That year 69% of CRNP's allotments were purchased by the park for \$220,000. By 1994 only 3 allotments were still active.
- 1987 The Scenic Drive was paved to its present length.
- 1991 The Burr Trail was paved from Boulder to the park boundary.
- 2014 Capitol Reef National Park begins an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) to evaluate cattle grazing and trailing on public park lands.
- 2015 Capitol Reef National Park was designated a Gold-Tier International Dark Sky Park through the International Dark Sky Association (darksky.org).

CLARIFICATIONS AND DISTANCES

Clarifications:

Desert: Capitol Reef NP is classified as desert in terms of weather with less than 10” of precipitation annually; but in terms of ecosystem classification the park is steppe-shrub.

Park Fee: Capitol Reef charges an entrance fee for the area of the park accessed by the Scenic Drive. The park does not collect an entrance fee on Highway 24 under an agreement with the State of Utah. In addition, because of considerations associated with the Fruita Historic District, the park does not collect an entrance fee between the visitor center and campground. Commercial road based tours are not required to pay a fee unless they travel beyond the entrance fee station. Entrance fees may be paid at the visitor center or entrance station. Annual and lifetime passes are sold at the visitor center.

Addresses:

USPS (mailing address): HC 70 Box 15, Torrey UT 84775

UPS & FedEx (physical location): 52 West Headquarters Drive. All deliveries go to the Administration building. Access the compound by the ‘authorized vehicles only’ entranceway.

For Emergency identification only: Visitor center: 16 South Scenic Drive

Road Distances: need to put roads in NPS Rawlinson font

State Route 12 (SR 12)

State Route 24 (SR 24)

State Route 95 (SR 95)

State Route 24, heading west from Visitor Center (Scenic Drive and SR 24 junction)

Visitor Center to Goosenecks Rd Junction	2.4 mi (3.8 km)
Panorama Point parking area to Goosenecks parking area	0.8 mi (1.2 km)
Visitor Center to west boundary	6.1 mi (9.9 km)
Visitor Center to SR 12	9.8 mi (15.7 km)
Visitor Center to Singletree Campground	21.7 mi (34.8 km)
Visitor Center to Pleasant Creek Campground	28.5 mi (45.8 km)
Visitor Center to Oak Creek Campground	29.6 mi (47.6 km)

FACT GUIDE for CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK

State Route 24 heading east from Visitor Center

Visitor Center to Fruita Schoolhouse	0.8 mi (1.2 km)
Visitor Center to Petroglyph Panel	1 mi (1.7 km)
Visitor Center to Hickman Bridge Trailhead	1.9 mi (3 km)
Visitor Center to Grand Wash Trailhead	4.5 mi (7.2 km)
Visitor Center to Behunin Cabin	5.9 mi (9.5 km)
Visitor Center to Notom Road Junction	9 mi (14.4 km)
Visitor Center to Hartnet Road Junction	11.7 mi (18.8 km)
Visitor Center to Cathedral Road Junction	18.5 mi (29.8 km)
Visitor Center to SR 95 junction (Hanksville)	37.1 mi (59.8 km)

Scenic Drive

Visitor Center to Ripple Rock Nature Center	0.9 mi (1.4 km)
Visitor Center to Gifford House	1.1 mi (1.8 km)
Visitor Center to Fruita Campground A/B Loops	1.3 mi (2 km)
Visitor Center to Fruita Campground Loop C	1.4 mi (2.3 km)
Visitor Center to Fee Station	1.6 mi (2.6 km)
Visitor Center to Grand Wash Road	3.4 mi (5.5 km)
Visitor Center to Grand Wash Trailhead	4.7 mi (7.5 km)
Visitor Center to Slickrock Divide	5.2 mi (8.4 km)
Visitor Center to Old Wagon Trailhead	6.5 mi (10.4 km)
Visitor Center to Capitol Gorge Road (end of pavement)	7.9 mi (12.7 km)
Visitor Center to Capitol Gorge Trailhead	10.3 mi (16.5 km)
Visitor Center to Pleasant Creek crossing	10.7 mi (17.22 km)

South Draw Road

Pleasant Creek crossing to park boundary	5 mi (8.1 km)
Park boundary to SR 12	10.7 mi (17.2 km)

Sulphur Creek Road

Outside CRNP: West end at SR 24 to park boundary	1.9 mi (3 km)
Inside CRNP: Park boundary to east end at SR 24/Twin Rocks pull off	1.9 mi (3 km)

FACT GUIDE for CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK

Total length	3.8 mi (6.1 km)
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Hartnet Road

SR 24 junction to Lower South Desert Overlook	15.2 mi (24.5 km)
SR 24 junction to Upper South Desert Overlook	27.2 mi (43.7 km)
SR 24 junction to Hartnet Junction	27.8 mi (44.7 km)
SR 24 junction to park boundary	28.6 mi (46 km)
SR 24 junction to Cathedral Valley Campground	28.11 mi (45.2 km)
SR 24 junction to SR 24 via Cathedral Road	57.6 mi (92.7 km)
Cathedral Loop including section of SR 24 between Hartnet and Cathedral Roads, excluding spur roads	64.5 mi (103.7 km)
Cathedral Loop starting at visitor center, excluding spur roads	87.8 mi (141.3 km)

Cathedral Road

SR 24 junction to Temple of the Moon	17.1 mi (27.5 km)
SR 24 junction to Oil Well Bench Road	20.5 mi (33 km)
SR 24 junction to Gypsum Sinkhole	25.6 mi (41.1 km)
SR 24 junction Baker Ranch Road	24.6 mi (39.6 km)
SR 24 junction to Cathedrals Trailhead	27.4 mi (44.1 km)
SR 24 junction to Morrell Cabin Trailhead	28.1 mi (45.2 km)
SR 24 junction to Cathedral Valley Campground	29.5 mi (47.5 km)
SR 24 junction to Hartnet Junction	57.6 mi (92.7 km)
Cathedral Loop including section of SR 24 between Hartnet and Cathedral Roads, excluding spur roads	64.5 mi (103.7 km)
Cathedral Loop starting at visitor center, excluding spur roads	87.8 mi (141.3 km)

Notom-Bullfrog Road

SR 24 junction to Cedar Mesa Campground	21.1 mi (34 km)
SR 24 junction to Burr Trail junction	32.4 mi (52.1 km)

FACT GUIDE for CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK

Visitor Center to Cedar Mesa Campground	30.1 mi (48.4 km)
Visitor Center to Burr Trail junction	41.4 mi (66.5 km)

Burr Trail

Notom/Burr Trail junction to Upper Muley junction	3.1 mi (5 km)
Notom/Burr Trail junction to west park boundary	5.3 mi (8.5 km)
Notom/Burr Trail junction to SR 12	35.6 mi (57.2 km)
Notom/Burr Trail junction to Post Road junction	2.2 mi (3.6 km)
Notom/Burr Trail junction to Eggnog junction (where Burr Trail becomes paved leading to Bullfrog)	10.8 mi (17.3 km)
Notom/Burr Trail junction to Halls Creek Overlook Spur junction	14.5 mi (23.3 km)

State Route 12

SR 12/SR 24 junction to Singletree Campground	12 mi (19.2 km)
SR 12/SR 24 junction to Pleasant Creek Campground	19 mi (30.1 km)
SR 12/SR 24 junction to Oak Creek Campground	20 mi (31.9 km)
SR 12/ SR 24 junction to Boulder/Burr Trail junction	37 mi (60 km)

Loop the Fold (distances from Visitor Center, traveling in a clockwise direction)

Visitor Center to SR 24/Notom Road junction	9 mi (14.4 km)
Visitor Center to Henry Mountains/McMillan Spurs junction **	22.5 mi (36.1 km)
Visitor Center to Cedar Mesa Campground	30.1 mi (48.4 km)
Visitor Center to Burr Trail junction	41.4 mi (66.5 km)
Visitor Center to Upper Muley Road Junction	44.5 mi (71.6 km)
Visitor Center to west park boundary	46.6 mi (75 km)

FACT GUIDE for CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK

Visitor Center to Boulder/SR 12 junction	77 mi (124.8 km)
Visitor Center to Oak Creek Campground	94.1 mi (151.5 km)
Visitor Center to Pleasant Creek Campground	95.2 mi (153.2 km)
Visitor Center to Singletree Campground	102 mi (164.2 km)
Visitor Center to SR 12/SR 24 junction	114 mi (183.3 km)
Visitor Center to Visitor Center (complete loop)	123.7 mi (199 km)

**road to McMillan Springs Campground (Recreation Area)

Trail Distances and Elevation Changes

Trail	One-way Distance	Elevation Change in Feet (m)	Difficulty	Description
Capitol Gorge	1 mi (1.6 km) to tanks. 2.3 mi (3.7 km) to park boundary	<50 (<15)	Easy	Mostly level walking in a narrow wash bottom with sheer canyon walls and Pioneer Register; waterpockets or "tanks" require a short climb with an elevation increase of 80 feet (25 m)
Goosenecks	0.1 mi (0.16 km)	<50 (<15)	Easy	Views of Sulphur Creek Canyon; panoramas.
Grand Wash	2.2 mi (3.6 km)	200 (60)	Easy	From the Highway 24 trailhead, very gradual climb of 200 feet (60 m) along narrow wash bottom with sheer canyon walls on both sides. From the Grand Wash Road trailhead, the trail travels down the wash.
Sunset Point	0.4 mi (0.6 km)	<50 (<15)	Easy	Panoramic view of cliffs and domes; dramatic lighting a day's end.
Cohab Canyon	1.7 mi (2.7 km)	400 (120)	Moderate	A hidden canyon with spur trails and overlooks. Strenuous climb of 320 feet (100 m) from west to east up

FACT GUIDE for CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK

				0.25 mile (0.4 km) switchbacks, then moderate. More gradual climb of 440 feet (135 m) from east to west.
Fremont River	1 mi (1.65 km)	480 (145)	Moderate	Self-guiding nature trail beginning at bridge across from the road from the picnic area. Very easy first 0.5 mile (0.8 km) along river and orchards; strenuous climb to valley overlook thereafter.
Hickman Bridge	0.9 mi (1.4 km)	400 (120)	Moderate	Self-guiding nature trail leads to the base of a 133 foot (40.5 m) natural rock bridge. Strenuous at first then moderate.
Cassidy Arch	1.7 mi (2.7 km)	670 (205)	Strenuous	Trail begins on north side of canyon 300 yards (275 m) from the parking lot at Grand Wash Road. Climbs steeply with some exposure along high cliffs, ending on top of the arch.
Chimney Rock Loop Trail	3.6 mi (5.9 km)	810 (245)	Strenuous	Strenuous climb of 240 feet (75 m) up 0.25 mile (0.4 km) switchbacks; then moderate hike afterwards. Views of Chimney Rock and panoramas.
Fremont Gorge Overlook	2.25 mi (3.6 km)	1,090 (330)	Strenuous	Steep initial climb to Johnson Mesa, level across mesa, then steep climb to viewpoint 1,000 feet (305 m) above the Fremont River.
Frying Pan	2.9 mi (4.6 km)	1,000 (305)	Strenuous	Access from the end of Cassidy Arch Trail, then 670 foot (205 m) additional gain. From Cohab Canyon junction, a 960 foot (290 m) gain; numerous geological features.
Golden Throne	2 mi (3.2 km)	730 (220)	Strenuous	Climbs from the bottom of gorge to tops of cliffs and ends with a view of Golden Throne.

FACT GUIDE for CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK

Navajo Knobs	4.7 mi (7.6 km)	2,400 (730)	Strenuous	Follow trail to Rim Overlook; then continue another 2.5 miles (4.0 km) for a 360-degree panorama.
Old Wagon Loop Trail	3.77 mi (6.1 km)	1,100 (335)	Strenuous	Follows old wagon route on Miners Mountain; panoramic views of the Waterpocket Fold.
Rim Overlook	2.3 mi (3.6 km)	1,110 (335)	Strenuous	Ends on top of 1,000 foot (305 m) cliffs with views of the orchards, campground to the south and domes to the east.

Area: Trail/Route:**Distance:****Fruita District Routes:**

Sulphur Creek	5.5 mi (8.9 km) one-way
Lower Spring Canyon	9.7 mi (15.6 km) one-way
Upper Spring Canyon	18.7 mi (30.1km) one-way
Pleasant Creek to East Boundary	3.4 mi (5.4 km) one-way
Pleasant Creek to West Boundary	2.3 mi (3.7 km) one-way

Cathedral District Trails and Routes:

Jailhouse/Temple Rocks	4.5 mi (7.3 km) round trip
Lower Cathedral Valley Overlooks	1.5-2.5 mi (2.5-3.9 km) round trip
Upper South Desert Overlook	0.4 mi (0.6 km) round trip
Upper Cathedral Valley Overlook Trail	0.2 mi (0.3 km) round trip
Morrell Cabin Trail	0.4 mi (0.7 km) round trip
Cathedrals Trail	2.4 mi (3.9km) round trip

Waterpocket District Routes:

Burro Wash	3.4 mi (5.5 km) one-way
Cottonwood Wash	3.3 mi (5.3 km) one-way
Sheets Gulch	6.7 mi (10.8 km) one-way to turn-around at cottonwood seep 11.6 mi (18.6 km) one-way to Tantalus Flats
Red Canyon Trail	5.6 mi (9.0 km) round trip
Strike Valley Overlook	0.9 mi (1.4 km) round trip
Upper Muley Twist	9.0 mi (14.5 km) round trip from Strike Valley Overlook Parking Area 14.8 mi (23.8 km) round trip from trailhead at Burr Trail Rd.
Lower Muley Twist	15.4 mi (24.8 km) round trip for the lower loop from the Post trailhead and back 22.8 mi (36.9 km) round trip for stem and loop from Burr Trail Road trailhead and back
Hamburger Rocks	2.3 mi (3.6km) round trip addition to the Lower Muley route
Surprise Canyon	2 mi (3.2km)
Headquarters Canyon	3.2 mi (5.2 km)
Halls Creek Narrows	22.4 mi (36.1 km) round trip

Distances and Dimensions:

Height of Temple of the Sun: 422 feet (129 m)

Height of Temple of the Moon: 265 feet (81 m)

Height of Jailhouse Rock: 523 feet (159 m)

Length of the Waterpocket Fold: We say nearly 87 miles

Park acreage:

244,601 acres inside current external boundary

- 680 acres of non-park-owned inholdings
- 243,921 total acres of park-owned land, excluding inholdings
- (~381 square miles; 98,711 hectares)

Wilderness:

1974 – 181,230 acres (75% of park) in 9 units recommended for Wilderness designation.

1978 – Submitted to Congress but was never voted on – there is no documentation as to why. This was the last formal wilderness proposal submitted.

1999 – Additional acreage found to be eligible for Wilderness designation and 236,170 acres were recommended for immediate designation with an additional 640 acres as potential additions. This was never submitted, but areas still protected.

Total of 236,810 acres (97% of park) managed as Wilderness (recommended, eligible, and proposed Wilderness treated the same)

Highest elevation: 8960' (2731 m) in upper Deep Creek drainage near Billings Pass;

Lowest elevation: 3880' (1183 m) where Halls Creek drainage exits the park

Width/height of "windows" of:

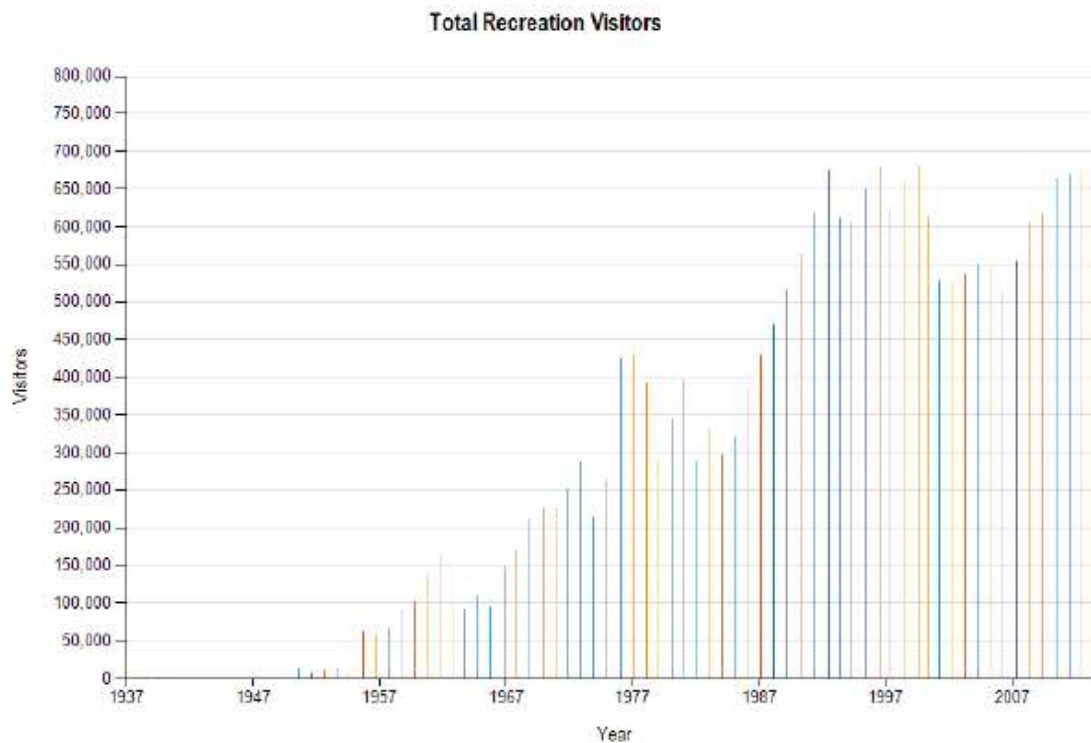
- Hickman Bridge: (need to get RM's laser rangefinder and measure on-site)
- Cassidy Arch: (ditto...good luck--get a rope!)

Summit elevations:

Capitol Dome: 6120 feet (1865 m)

Golden Throne: 7042 feet (2146 m)

CARE Total Annual Visitation



Year	Annual Visitation						
		1959	89,600	1980	342,788	2001	527,760
		1960	102,500	1981	397,789	2002	525,646
1938	1,500	1961	136,800	1982	289,486	2003	535,441
1939	1,500	1962	163,500	1983	331,734	2004	549,708
1940	2,000	1963	93,200	1984	296,230	2005	550,255
1941	1,975	1964	92,500	1985	320,503	2006	511,511
1942	0	1965	108,500	1986	383,742	2007	554,907
1943	0	1966	94,000	1987	428,808	2008	604,811
1944	0	1967	146,600	1988	469,556	2009	617,208
1945	0	1968	171,000	1989	515,278	2010	662,661
1946	0	1969	210,600	1990	562,477	2011	668,834
1947	0	1970	225,900	1991	618,056	2012	673,345
1950	3,066	1971	225,500	1992	675,837	2013	663,670
1951	13,192	1972	251,163	1993	610,707		
1952	6,411	1973	288,800	1994	605,324		
1953	9,991	1974	214,100	1995	648,864		
1954	12,900	1975	263,400	1996	678,012		
1955	7,500	1976	425,100	1997	625,680		
1956	62,500	1977	428,800	1998	656,026		
1957	56,900	1978	392,428	1999	680,153		
1958	65,000	1979	288,860	2000	612,656		

REFERENCES

Capitol Reef National Park planning documents:
<http://www.nps.gov/care/parkmgmt/planning.htm>

Current NPS Statistics: <https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/>

Geology: USGS 2010 Divisions of Time – Major Chronostratigraphic and Geochronologic Units <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2010/3059/pdf/FS10-3059.pdf>

USGS Place Names: <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/>